

in various other parts of Asia and Oceanica. The note issues are not permitted to exceed three times the metallic reserve, and the liabilities on account of notes, deposit accounts, and other debts are not permitted to exceed three times the capital and reserve, unless the excess is fully covered by coin. The bank is obliged to deal in several different forms of money to meet the tastes of its various customers. Mexican dollars have been coined at the Paris mint, rupees are used at Pondi-cherry, and francs are used in keeping the accounts of the bank and in parts of its territory.¹ The life of the bank, originally fixed at twenty years, was last extended in 1900 until January 21, 1920.²

The prosperity of the bank depends to a large degree upon the export products of the French dependencies, which consist chiefly of rice. When the exportation of rice from Cochin-China fell from 512,000 tons in 1888 to 287,000 tons in 1889, discounts and advances declined by 10,000,000 francs and the bank suffered considerable losses from the failure of Chinese houses with which it had large transactions.³ The bank has, however, survived these experiences and steadily extended its influence and resources. A branch was established at Hong-kong in 1894; at Bangkok, the capital of Siam, in 1897 ; and at Shanghai in 1898. In Annam and Tonkin the bank has forced down the interest rates to agriculturists, from twelve to fifteen per cent, formerly charged by Chinese bankers, to about eight per cent., being guaranteed against loss under certain conditions by the government/ The total assets of the bank at the close of 1907 were 228,-203,083 francs, of which discounts made up 56,288,010 francs ; current accounts and advances, 59,425,536 francs; and cash in Paris and at the branches, 35,306,590 francs. The outstanding circulation was 52,749,436 francs. The other two largest items of liability, aside from capital, were the account of the Treasury of Indo-China, 49,290,099 francs, and obligations to correspondents, 41,425,563 francs.⁶

231.
200.

² Dftieux, 80.

*Denizet,

⁴ Goutnain-Comille, 169.

⁵ *Economists Europken*, May 29, 1908, XXXIII., 684.